

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces the claims presently in the application:

1. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each said inlet communicating with a respective one of a plurality of dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the valves and through its respective dispense valve with an associated one of a plurality of inlet sections that merge into a common outlet section leading to a common dispense nozzle, and wherein including means for operating the dispense valves to provide a flow of beverage therethrough and from the dispense nozzle, such that a lower flow rate of beverage is provided from said dispense nozzle at one or both of the start of the dispense of beverage and the end of the dispense of beverage from said dispense nozzle by selectively opening or and closing the said dispense valves at different times during the dispense, such that at one or both of the start of the dispense of beverage and the end of the dispense of beverage from said dispense nozzle at least one, but less than all, of the said dispense valves are closed.

2-5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 1, wherein the said dispense valves are on/off solenoid valves.

7. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 1, wherein the said dispense valves are operable via a control unit in response to user actuation of a dispense.

8-9. (cancelled).

10. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 9 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during dispense by a small proportion of the dispensed beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

11. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 10 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the flow of the beverage creates a vacuum in the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve that causes air to be drawn into the nozzle through the airway allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

12. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 21 comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, wherein means is provided for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, and wherein the drain means comprises an airway for admitting air to the dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet at the end of the dispense to drain beverage from the dispense nozzle through the lower outlet, wherein the airway comprises a passageway controlled by a

drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense.

13. (original) A dispense head according to claim 12 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the drain valve is opened allowing air to be drawn into the nozzle by the vacuum created by the flow of the beverage and allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

14-15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 16 comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, said inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having an outlet, and means for draining said dispense nozzle downstream from said dispense valve through said dispense nozzle outlet when said dispense valve is closed, said draining means including means for admitting air to said dispense nozzle downstream from said dispense valve and upstream from said outlet, wherein the said means for admitting air comprises an air inlet to the said dispense nozzle upstream from the said outlet for admitting air into the said dispense nozzle to drain the said dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense.

18. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 17 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense by a small proportion of the

dispensed beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the said inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle, and means for draining the said dispense nozzle downstream of the from said dispense valve when the said dispense valve is closed, wherein the said drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to drain the said dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense, wherein the said inlet for admitting air comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the said nozzle during beverage dispense, and wherein a short time delay is provided on completion of a dispense before opening the said drain valve.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the said inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, and means for draining the said dispense nozzle downstream of the the said dispense valve when the said dispense valve is closed, wherein the said drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to the said dispense nozzle upstream from the said outlet to drain the said dispense nozzle through the said lower beverage outlet on completion of a dispense, and wherein the

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said inlet for admitting air comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into ~~the~~ said nozzle during beverage dispense.

23. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said outlet section has a cross-sectional area matching the combined cross-sectional areas of ~~the~~ said inlet sections.

24. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said inlet sections are inclined relative to ~~the~~ said outlet section and converge to merge smoothly into ~~the~~ said outlet section avoiding sudden changes in the direction of flow.

25-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to said dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet to drain beverage from the dispense nozzle through the outlet on completion of a dispense.